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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/942,787	08/29/2001	Henry Scanzano	9209-12	9756

20792 7590 12/28/2004

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EXAMINER

CHEN, TE Y

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2161

DATE MAILED: 12/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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# Office Action Summary

Applicant(s)

09/942,787

Applicant(s)

SCANZANO ET AL.

Examiner

Susan Y Chen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Priority Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 June 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 06/21/2004 has been entered.

Claims 1-48 are pending for examination, claims 1 and 36 have been amended.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 36-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As to claim 36, 40 and 45, it is not understood what is it meant by "associating a type with respective ones of the plurality of second tables" [i.e., what does the claimed "respective ones of the plurality of second tables" refer to? What type was used to

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associate the claimed respective ones of a plurality of second tables? And how to associate a type to the claimed respective ones of a plurality of second tables?]

As to claims 37-39, 41-44 and 46-48, these claims have the same defect as their base claims, hence are rejected for the same reason.

Because of the ambiguity nature of the invention, the following rejections are based on the examiner best understanding.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jorgensen (U.S. Patent No. 5,933,831).

As to claims 12, 14 and 40, Jorgensen discloses a computer system with relational database management processing to provide multiple but exclusive relationships between tables [e.g. see Abstract, Fig(s). 2-4], wherein, the system comprising the followings as claimed by applicant:

a) a relating (or type) table [e.g., table 200, Fig. 2] which have at least one attribute [e.g. the pop-up menu (226), Fig. 2] to provide a one-to-many relationship between the related table and a corresponding foreign key [e.g., the foreign key icon(206), Fig. 2; col. 3, lines 56-65 & col. 4, lines 4-6; Fig. 4];

b) a plurality of related tables [e.g., the set of hyperlinked tables being displayed by the step 306, Fig. 3; col. 3, lines 27-32, lines 56-65; col. 4, lines 14-19];

c) means for selectively associating a foreign key value of a record in the relating table with a specific one of related tables based on the attribute of the key [e.g. see the foreign key icon & trigger processing of Fig(s). 3A-3C];

d) means for enforcing the multiple but exclusive relationship between tables in the relation database [e.g., the hyperlinked icons, col. 2, Summary of the Invention.

Note: the primary key icon represents an exclusive relationship between tables in the relation database because the primary key is unique in nature. The foreign key icon links the displayed table to a display of another table in the entity relationship diagram containing the foreign key (e.g., col. 2, lines 20-22), thus, the icons that including keys and constraints represents multiple relationships between tables in the database.

Furthermore, the entity relationship diagram of Fig. 2, read the recited features of d) (e.g., col. 3, lines 4965)).

As to claims 13,17-18, 20-23, 41-42 and 44, the claimed limitations are default properties of standard OO SQL processing. [e.g. an ordinary skill person in the art can use the "Create Table" SQL to define foreign key association between a set of tables,

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he/she also can use the "Create Type" SQL to define a plurality of types of foreign key association. In addition, a user can enforce the multiple and exclusive relationship between a set of tables via QQ SQL UDR (User Defined Routines or triggers). Furthermore, a build-in "Select (value/values) From (table/tables) Where (condition/conditions)" SQL can be used to select and identify (or obtain) records from a set of desired tables of a database].

As to claims 15, 19 and 43, Jorgensen further discloses using trigger to enforce association relationships between the set of foreign keys and related tables in a database [e.g., see Fig. 3C].

As to claim 16, Jorgensen further discloses that the system use a defined type (or hyperlink) to access the typed tables [e.g. see col. 3, lines 27-32].

As to claims 1-11, 24-39 and 45-48, these claims recite the same subject matters as claims 12-23 and 40-44 in form of computer method and computer products. As such, they are rejected for the same reason.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 06/21/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The examiner disagrees with applicants' argument that "Because Applicants do not limit the inventions of claims 36,40 and 45 to any particular mechanism for identifying the second tables as long as the type of table is associated with a particular one of the second tables, those claims are not indefinite for failing to specify what particular mechanism is used."

In reply to this argument, the examiner notes 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph requires applicants to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention, but for claims 36, 40 and 45, since the claimed type and tables are not defined, so as the association of the type and tables are not distinct.

The examiner further disagrees with applicants' argument that "Nothing in the cited portions of Jorgensen discloses or suggests the selective association of a foreign key in a relating table with a specific one of a plurality of related tables based on an attribute of the record containing the foreign key in the relating table as is recited in independent Claim 12".

In reply to this argument, the examiner points out that Jorgensen clearly disclosed the claimed limitations via Fig.(s) 3A-3B and associated texts. In order for applicants to appreciate that the cited figures read claim 12, the examiner further points out that the displays of Fig.(s) 3A-3B provides a Geographic User Interface (GUI) that not only presents the selective association of a foreign key [e.g., the click-able foreign key icon 324, Fig. 3B] in a relating table [e.g., the current table 314, Fig. 3B] with a specific one of a plurality of related tables [e.g., the pop-up list of child tables 332, Fig.

3B], but also provides that the selection is based on an attribute of the record [e.g., the entity of parent table 322, Fig. 3B] containing the foreign key [e.g., the click-able foreign key icon 324, Fig. 3B] in the relating table.

The examiner further disagrees with applicants' argument that "Jorgensen does not disclose or suggest enforcing multiple but exclusive relationships between records as recited in Claim 40".

In reply to this argument, the examiner directs applicants' attention to Jorgensen's disclosure for the hyperlinked icons that enforce the links between records of tables [col. 2, Summary of the Invention]. Wherein, the primary key icon represents an exclusive relationship between records of tables in the relation database because the primary key is unique in nature. The foreign key icon links the displayed table to a display of another table in the entity relationship diagram containing the foreign key (e.g., col. 2, lines 20-22), thus, the icons that including keys and constraints represents multiple relationships between records of tables in the database. Furthermore, the entity relationship diagram of Fig. 2, read the recited features of claim 12 (e.g., col. 3, lines 4965).

Therefore, based on the above discussion the examiner maintains the same rejection.



***Conclusion***

To expedite the process of examination Examiner requests that all future correspondences in regard to overcoming prior art rejections or other issues (e.g. 35 U.S.C. 112) set forth by the Examiner prior to the office action, that Applicants provide and link to the most specific page and line numbers of the disclosure where best support is found (see 35 U.S.C. 132).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan Y Chen whose telephone number is 571-272-4016. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 571-272-4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Susan Y Chen

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Examiner  
Art Unit 2161

December 21, 2004

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Uyen Le'.

**UYEN LE**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

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